Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a first configuration having a maximum allowed runtime;

increasing, by the first configuration, the first configuration's maximum allowed runtime;

if an interrupt occurs, suppressing the increase in response to the interrupt; and

if no interrupt occurs, reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a second configuration in response to expiry of the increased maximum allowed runtime, the increased maximum allowed runtime expiring due to suppression by at least one of a task switch and a thread switch of a further increase of the maximum allowed runtime.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the first configuration triggers a parallel counter to perform the increasing.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein an interrupt whose processing requires handling within the maximum allowed runtime is handled on a component reserved for handling of interrupts whose processing requires handling within the maximum allowed runtime and on which the first configuration is not run.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime;

triggering an increase, by the configuration, of the configuration's maximum allowed runtime; and

responsive to an interrupt, suppressing an increase by the configuration of the maximum allowed runtime to respond to the interrupt upon expiry of the maximum allowed runtime.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

increasing, by a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime, the configuration's maximum allowed runtime;

suppressing the increase in response to an interrupt; and

reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a new configuration for handling the interrupt responsive to expiry of the maximum allowed runtime.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a first configuration having a maximum allowed runtime; and

if an interrupt does not occur:

the first configuration triggering a counter reset, the counter reset increasing the maximum allowed runtime;

subsequent to the counter reset, and for a scheduled task switch, the counter counting to the increased maximum allowed runtime without a retriggering of the counter by the first configuration; and

responsive to the reaching of the increased maximum allowed runtime, performing one of a task switch and a thread switch by reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a second configuration;

wherein, if an interrupt does occur, responsive to the occurrence of the interrupt, the maximum allowed runtime is not increased.

11. (Previously Presented) A reconfigurable unit, comprising:

configurable cells configurable with a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime, wherein the configuration is adapted to trigger a counter reset to increase its maximum allowed runtime conditional at least upon that an interrupt is not detected and processing is to continue without a thread switch and without a task switch.

12. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein a program instruction is executed using a plurality of the configurations, including the first configuration.

13. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein a plurality of program instructions are executable via a single instance of the first configuration.